

## ABSTRACT

A method and system are disclosed for assisting an administrator of a system, such as including a storage area network (SAN), in managing tasks that may include tasks related to data storage, wherein typically a plurality of host systems contact the SAN. The system (i) detects a new host contact that is the result of a bus scan on the new  
5 host (H), (ii) captures a world wide (WWN) for H provided by the bus scan, (iii) uses the WWN to retrieve additional information describing H from, e.g., a fiber channel switch, (iii) presents both the WWN and the additional information for H to the administrator, wherein the presentation is distinguished from presentations of other hosts, and (iv) allows the administrator to modify the presentation for H by adding to or replacing at  
10 least a portion of the presentation for H with further data that makes it easier for the administrator to identify the presentation for H from corresponding presentations for other hosts. Since the system uses a host bus scan to contact the SAN, no special purpose software is required on the hosts.

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